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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/601,774	06/23/2003	Kim Goh	CULLP0178US	9500

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EXAMINER

AMERSON, LORI BAKER

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3764

DATE MAILED: 04/18/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/601,774

Applicant(s)

GOH, KIM

Examiner

L. Amerson

Art Unit

3764

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 June 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 June 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-2, 4-5 and 7-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McQuinn in view of Parviainen. McQuinn discloses a bench (4) having a base supported by the ground (fig. 1), a leverage bar (10) suspended below the bench by a pivot connection and a weight bar (9) at the end and gripping handles (7). McQuinn discloses all of the limitations of the claimed invention except for an arch-shaped bench. Thus, Parviainen teaches an arch-shaped bench (7). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify McQuinn in view of Parviainen such that an arch provides a comfortable support to contour the back of a user. As to claim 2, the language has not been given patentable weight because the recitations are purely functional in nature and do not recite any structure. As to claim 4, the second end of the leverage bar supports a counterweight bar (11). As to claim 5, the second end of the bench mounts a pivotal knee roll (17). As to claim 7, the knee roll is adjustable (fig. 4). As to claim 8, the bench is adjustable on an incline (fig. 7).

3. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zimmer in view of Blount and Ma. Zimmer discloses a bench (10) having a base

supported by the ground (fig. 1), a leverage bar (32) suspended below the bench by a pivot connection and a weight bar (12) at the end and gripping handles (34). Zimmer discloses all of the limitations of the claimed invention except for an arch-shaped bench. Thus, Blount teaches an arch-shaped bench (fig. 1). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Zimmer in view of Blount such that an arch provides a comfortable support to contour the back of a user. As to claim 2, the language has not been given patentable weight because the recitations are purely functional in nature and do not recite any structure. As to claim 3, Zimmer and Blount disclose all of the limitations of the claimed invention except for the handles and rolls. Ma teaches the handles (23) support a head and leg roll (fig. 1; pad above reference 21 and 20).

4. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McQuinn and Parviainen as applied to claim 4 above and further in view of Zimmer. McQuinn and Parviainen do not teach a pair of handgrips and the second end of the bench. Zimmer teaches hand grips (34) at an end of the bench. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include additional hand grips on a bench such that hand grips provide a stable grip for a user while exercising.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to L Amerson whose telephone number is (571) 272-4971. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri from 9-6 p.m. Interviews Tue. and Thur..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gregory Huson can be reached on 571-272-4887. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Amerson', with a stylized, cursive script.

L. Amerson